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Powerlooms in Tamil Nadu

2475. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of powerlooms in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government have received any request for reducing the rate supplied to these powerlooms in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) As on 31-5-91, there are 2,06,892 powerlooms in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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Yarn Prices

2476. SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an increase in the prices of yarn recently;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce the prices of yarn;

(c) whether there is any difference in the prices of yarn in different states; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to bring uniformity in the prices of yarn sold by the various states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Hank Yarn Price Monitoring Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Textile Commissioner to monitor supply and demand position of hank yarn. In the case of synthetic/man-made filament yarn, Textile Ministry had arranged various meeting in the past with spinners and weavers to arrest the increase in prices of VSY, PFY and PQY to a large extent. Besides, Textile Commissioner organised a meeting between spinners and weavers to fix statutory prices of different varieties of NFY and also to keep the prices in check.

(c) Prices of cotton yarns (cone & hank) at various important consuming centres such as Maharashtra, U.P., Punjab, Tamil Nadu and Delhi vary, depending upon the local taxes, quality of yarn, locational adantages and wage structure etc.

(d) It is difficult to bring about uniformity in prices of yarn sold by various states as prices vary due to difference in quantum of local taxes, levies and demand and supply factor.

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Pre-shipment Inspection of Uncovered Commodities of Export

2477. SHRI RAMESH CHENITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring the uncovered commodities of export under the purview of compulsory preshipment insp tion; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) New items are brought under the ambit of compulsory preshipment inspection as and when it is considered necessary.

214 Defence, Orissa

National Test Range at Baliapal

2478. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of the National Test Range under construction in Baliapal area of Orissa;

(b) the time-frame within which the range is expected to become operational; and

(c) the effect of time over-runs on the cost of the project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Government has accorded Go-Ahead sanction for Nation Range Project. Layout of facilities and preliminary design has been completed. A comprehensive scheme has been drawn for resettlement and rehabilitation of families likely to be affected. Work on these schemes has commenced.

(b) After acquisition of land, it will take about 7 years to make the range operational.

(c) As on date, time over-run in the project will result into upward cost revision by about 50 per cent.

Development of National Highways

2479. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the existing capacity of the National Highways;

(b) the current volume of traffic per day vis-a-vis the optimum capacity of National Highways; and

(c) the plans for development and expansion of National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The capacity of National Highways is expressed in terms of Passenger Car Units (PCUs) per day. The existing capacity of different National Highways varies according to the lane width, type of terrain, composition of traffic, etc.

(b) The volume of traffic carried by different National Highways varies from Section to Section. As per 1990 Traffic Census, the actual traffic on about 1/3 of the total length of 33,689 Kms of National Highways is more than the optimum capacity.

(c) The development of National Highways such as improvement of geometrics, widening, strengthening of pavement is a continuous process and improvement works are undertaken after being included in the Five Year Plan keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing condition of the highway, *inter-se* priority on an All-India basis and availability of funds.

Construction of Bridge across Tungabhadra River near Singatalur, Karnataka

2480. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for the construction of bridge across Tungabhadra river near Singatalur in Dharward District in Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to sanction funds therefor as and when the augmentation of Central Road Fund takes place; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Madam.

(c) Does not arise.

Directives of RBI regarding Direct Cash Dealings

2481. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has advised all banks that no direct cash dealings be involved in bank drafts for amounts over Rs. fifty thousand;

(b) if so, the number/names of those banks which have already implemented RBI's directions and which have not; and

(c) the action Reserve Bank of India proposes to take against those banks which have not followed its directions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised all banks that demand drafts, mail transfers, telegraphic transfers and traveller cheques for Rs. 50,000 and above